STATE OF NEW YORK

8402--A

Cal. No. 445

IN SENATE

January 26, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing the "go green schools act" to assist schools in converting to renewable energy systems as a primary source of energy

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "go green schools act".

§ 2. Article 8 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a new title 9-D to read as follows:

TITLE 9-D
GO GREEN SCHOOLS ACT

Section 1920. Definitions.
1921. Mapping.
1922. Study.
1923. Reporting.

§ 1920. Definitions. For the purposes of this title:

(a) "authority" shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdivision two of section eighteen hundred fifty-one of this article; and

(b) "renewable energy systems" shall have the same meaning as defined in section sixty-six-p of the public service law.

§ 1921. Mapping. 1. The authority shall develop a mapping tool to provide to schools to assist such schools in converting to renewable energy systems as a primary source of energy.

2. The mapping tool shall be posted prominently and publicly on the authority's website and shall include the following features:

(a) provide sufficient information and guidance to schools to comprehensively evaluate what type or types of renewable energy systems will be the most cost effective option for meeting the energy needs of each school in the state; and

(b) renewable energy system siting information, such as: land use cover data; disadvantaged communities; brownfields; previously disturbed

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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and developed sites including but not limited to large rooftops, parking lots, and landfills; agricultural soils and agricultural districts; forests; wetlands, floodplains, and waterbodies; historic, cultural, and archaeological resources; public parks, preserves and recreational resources; conserved and protected lands; hosting capacity; distribution, and transmission lines; and topography as relevant to siting renewable energy systems.

3. The authority shall complete and post the mapping tool on its website on or before December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-six.

§ 1922. Study. 1. The authority, within twelve months of the effective date of this title, shall conduct a study of the financial feasibility and sustainability of converting each public school district to renewable energy as a primary source of energy.

2. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) the ability of each school district to safely house its own independent energy harnessing source and store the energy harnessed, including the use of nearby structures to create local storage battery facilities nearby;

(b) the ability to plug schools that are not connected to a renewable energy source into existing renewable energy sources, including but not limited to solar farms, hydrogen energy plants, wind farms, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources, as approved by the authority, that are nearby;

(c) the creation of microgrids to connect school districts to local renewable energy sources, and the cost to upkeep such microgrids; and

(d) recommendations regarding the most feasible renewable energy sources for converting public school districts to renewable energy, including the most cost-effective routes to connect schools with such renewable energy sources.

§ 1923. Reporting. 1. (a) The authority, no later than three months following the completion of the mapping required pursuant to section nineteen hundred twenty-one of this title and the study required pursuant to section nineteen hundred twenty-two of this title, shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, containing the results of such mapping and the findings of such study.

(b) The report required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) recommendations for the most efficient ways to convert schools to renewable energy systems; and

(ii) recommendations for financial savings programs to incentivize school districts to convert to renewable energy systems.

2. The authority, no later than twelve months following the completion of the mapping required pursuant to section nineteen hundred twenty-one of this title and the study required pursuant to section nineteen hundred twenty-two of this title, shall submit a second report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, containing projections regarding the sustainability and upkeep costs of the renewable energy projects recommended in the first report required pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

§ 3. Section 1854 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

9. To develop and provide a mapping tool and assistance to each public school district in converting to renewable energy sources as a primary source of energy pursuant to title nine-D of this article.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.